

with his beloved wife and pen pal for life, Doodiee.

Donn represents the very best of our history and the very best of America. I thank him for his service to our country. I congratulate him on a century of life and wisdom and a life truly well lived.

May Donn and Doodiee receive every blessing and happiness under heaven.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF DR. GEORGE DEBNAM

(Ms. ROSS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. ROSS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Dr. George Debnam who, sadly, passed away last month.

Dr. Debnam was a towering figure in our community, best known for delivering 10,000 babies; the most by any single physician in the history of North Carolina.

Dr. Debnam dedicated his life to providing quality healthcare, championing accessible education, and advancing social justice. It is only fitting that we honor Dr. Debnam during Black History Month. He played a critical role in integrating healthcare in Raleigh while he worked at St. Agnes Hospital.

Born in Youngsville, and a longtime resident of Raleigh, Dr. Debnam attended Shaw University and worked throughout his life to ensure that Shaw got the resources it needed to grow and thrive.

Today, his enduring legacy lives on through his twin daughters; both are physicians at the Debnam Clinic in Southeast Raleigh.

Our community is forever indebted to Dr. Debnam and his family.

CELEBRATING CONTRIBUTIONS OF BLACK BUSINESS OWNERS DURING NATIONAL ENTREPRENEURSHIP WEEK

(Ms. STRICKLAND asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. STRICKLAND. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the contributions of Black business owners during National Entrepreneurship Week.

Black entrepreneurs have been at the forefront of innovation, introducing new products, services, and industries that drive economic progress. Yet, many face barriers accessing equity capital and financing with affordable interest rates to sustain their growth.

According to the Alliance for Entrepreneurial Equity, Black startups receive a mere 1 percent of total venture financing. Most start with just one-third of the capital available to their White counterparts.

This Black History Month, I want to recognize Makieda Hart, a startup founder and Black businessowner in my district. Through her tenacity and determination, she continues to grow her

business and makes an impact in the 10th Congressional District of Washington State.

Knowledge about capital and resources are essential to all small business owners, and she encourages young people to seek a mentor and to always learn.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues in Congress to take a closer look at the challenges faced by Black entrepreneurs and to work together to build a stronger, more equitable economy for all because economic justice is, indeed, social justice.

REPUBLICAN PRIORITIES

(Mr. LIEU asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. LIEU. Mr. Speaker, when Democrats were in the majority, we passed a bipartisan law to rebuild our roads, bridges, and highways. We passed a bipartisan law to make sure that our schools remained open. We passed a bipartisan law to bring manufacturing back to the United States, and we passed a bipartisan law to help our Nation's veterans. Unemployment is now at the lowest rate in over 50 years.

Republicans gained control of the majority last month. What is one of the first things that they did? They held a hearing on Twitter.

Let me repeat that again. House Republicans used the awesome power of the Federal Government, the committee staff resources, and the time and attention of their Members to hold a congressional hearing about Twitter.

DEMOCRATS HAVE DELIVERED FOR THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

(Ms. BROWNLEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. BROWNLEY. Mr. Speaker, as President Biden laid out at the State of the Union, House Democrats and the Biden administration have delivered for the American people.

Because House Democrats put people over politics, our economy saw the creation of more than 12 million new jobs in the past 2 years.

We enacted landmark legislation that made historic investments in infrastructure and lowered costs for America's working families, all while decreasing the deficit by more than \$1.7 trillion.

We are rebuilding our economy and American pride by reigniting the spirit of American manufacturing and industrial strength.

As Members of Congress, we have a responsibility to strengthen the middle class, fix our crumbling infrastructure, safeguard Social Security and Medicare, protect reproductive freedom, uphold our promise to our Nation's veterans, and create a fair economy that works for all Americans.

House Democrats are committed to finishing the job and continuing to work and deliver for the people.

HONORING THE SERVICE OF TOMMY DORTCH

(Ms. WILLIAMS of Georgia asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. WILLIAMS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor my constituent, Mr. Tommy Dortch, one of our country's greatest contributors to closing the racial wealth gap. I could spend hours highlighting his contributions to the Black community, but I want to focus on his investment into our great HBCUs.

A proud product of both Fort Valley State University and Clark Atlanta University, Mr. Dortch founded the National Black College Alumni Hall of Fame Foundation in 1985. Mr. Dortch has led the Foundation to award over \$1 million in grants and scholarships to students, and exposed more than 500,000 students to college opportunities.

As a third-generation HBCU grad, I know firsthand their critical role in fostering Black excellence. Mr. Dortch's lifetime of giving back to the HBCU community has laid the groundwork for economic mobility for generations to come.

Mr. Speaker, today, I proudly join with members of the Georgia delegation to introduce legislation to award Mr. Tommy Dortch the Congressional Gold Medal for his leadership and contributions to our country. I am eternally grateful for the work he continues to do to advance equity and opportunity for all.

HONORING THE LIFE OF ELLIOT BLAIR

(Mr. CORREA asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. CORREA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of my constituent, Orange County Public Defender Elliot Blair, who passed away while celebrating his first anniversary with his wife in Mexico.

Elliot graduated from Cal State Fullerton and earned his degree in law from Loyola Marymount University. Elliot was a devoted public servant and advocate for the underserved and underrepresented. He was a young attorney, a promising young attorney that was loved by our community.

On the evening of his passing away, he called his mother and he said, mom, I am going to have dinner at your favorite restaurant. Those were the last words he uttered to his family.

Elliot will be missed, but he will not be forgotten.

REMEMBERING THE 20TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE STATION NIGHTCLUB FIRE

(Mr. MAGAZINER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)